

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (Currently amended): An isolated transgenic plant cell comprising a foreign nucleic acid molecule stably integrated into the genome, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide having the enzymatic activity of an RNA-directed RNA polymerase (RdRP) or encoding an enzymatically active fragment thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a nucleic acid molecule coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(2) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(3) a nucleic acid molecule that specifically hybridizes to a complementary strand of the nucleic acid molecule as defined in (1) or (2) in 0.25 M NaHPO₄ pH 7.2; 0.25 M NaCl, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA and 5-20% (w/v) polyethylene glycol (M_r 6-7.5x10³) at 42° C for 4-24 hours; and

~~(4) a nucleic acid molecule that has a sequence identity of at least 80% to the nucleic acid molecule of (1) or (2);~~

wherein said nucleic acid molecule is linked to regulatory elements such that the nucleic acid is expressed allowing transcription, expression, or transcription and expression of said nucleic acid molecule in plant cells.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A transgenic plant comprising the plant cell of any one of claims 29 or 64 65-70.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): ~~An~~ The isolated transgenic plant cell of claim 29 which contains wherein said nucleic acid is stably integrated into the genome of said plant cell and a

foreign nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) a nucleic acid molecule coding for a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (2) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (3) a nucleic acid molecule that specifically hybridizes to a complementary strand of the nucleic acid molecule as defined in (1) or (2) in 0.25 M NaHPO₄ pH 7.2, 0.25 M NaCl, 7% SDS, 1 mM EDTA and 5-20% (w/v) polyethylene glycol (M_r 6-7.5x10³) at 42° C for 4-24 hours; and
- (4) a nucleic acid molecule that has a sequence identity of at least 80% to the nucleic acid molecule of (1) or (2);
wherein said nucleic acid molecule is linked to regulatory elements allowing transcription, expression, or transcription and expression of said nucleic acid molecule in plant cells; and wherein the presence, transcription, expression, or transcription and expression of the nucleic acid molecule leads to reduction of the synthesis of a polypeptide having RNA-directed RNA polymerase (RdRP) activity in the cell.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell of claim 31, wherein the reduction is achieved by an antisense or co-suppression effect.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A transgenic plant comprising the plant cell according to claim 31 or 32.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A cultured plant tissue comprising the plant cell according to any one of claims 29, 31 or 32.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A leaf, stem, fruit, seed,

or root of a plant, wherein said leaf, stem, fruit, seed, or root comprises the plant cell according to any one of claims 29, 31 or 32.

Claim 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): Propagation material of a plant, wherein said propagation material comprises the plant cell according to any one of claims 29, 31 or 32.

Claims 38-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (previously presented) The transgenic plant cell according to claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is heterologous to the transgenic plant cell.

Claims 49-63 (canceled)

Claim 64 (canceled)

Claim 65 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell according to claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is DNA.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell according to claim 65, wherein the DNA is cDNA or genomic DNA.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell according to claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell according to claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is derived from a plant cell.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell according to claim 68, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is derived from a tomato plant cell.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The transgenic plant cell according to claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of the nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and the nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claims 71-74 (canceled)